

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (Original). An oxide coating method characterized by applying a direct current voltage between an anode and a cathode positioned opposite the anode in an electrolyte and formed from a metal plate to be coated with an oxide, and supplying gas into the electrolyte to coat it with the oxide.

2 (Original). An oxide coating method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the gas is oxygen, or a gas containing oxygen.

3 (Currently Amended). An oxide coating method as set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the gas is supplied through bubble generating means situated below or beside the space between the anode and cathode.

4 (Currently Amended). An oxide coating method as set forth in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the gas is supplied in the form of fine bubbles.

5 (Currently Amended). An oxide coating method as set forth in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the gas is so supplied as to contact the cathode surface.

6 (Original). An oxide coating apparatus characterized by having an anode and a cathode situated opposite the anode in an electrolyte and formed from a metal plate to be coated with an oxide, and bubble generating means for supplying gas into the electrolyte.

7 (Original). An oxide coating apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the anode is an insoluble anode.

8 (Currently Amended). An oxide coating apparatus as set forth in claim ~~6 or 7~~, wherein the gas is oxygen, or a gas containing oxygen.

9 (Currently Amended). An oxide coating apparatus as set forth in ~~any of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6, wherein the bubble generating means is situated below or beside the space between the anode and cathode.

10 (Currently Amended). An oxide coating apparatus as set forth in ~~any of claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6, wherein the bubble generating means is a porous body connected to a source of gas supply.

11 (Original). An oxide coating apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein the porous body has a pore diameter of 1 to 1,000  $\mu\text{m}$  and a void ratio of 5 to 95%.

12 (Currently Amended). An oxide coating apparatus as set forth in claim ~~10 or 11~~, wherein the porous body is a sintered body of any of a metal powder, a ceramic powder and an organic resin powder.

13 (Currently Amended). An oxide coating apparatus as set forth in claim ~~10 or 11~~, wherein the porous body is a foamed product of any of a foamed metal, a foamed ceramic and a foamed organic resin having open cells.